

Special Meeting
June 26, 2006

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, June 26, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the Panel Room of the 1767 Courthouse.

Present: Jimmy Alligood, Louis Belfield, Ralph Cole, Jerry Downum, Bill Gardner, Wayne Goodwin, Harry Lee Winslow.

Vice Chairman Ralph Cole called the meeting to order and welcomed Chairman Goodwin back. Chairman Goodwin thanked his fellow Commissioners and the County staff for their work on the budget and for the fine teamwork always exhibited to get a job done well, calling the teamwork "an envy of surrounding counties". He said he is feeling much better but still has a way to go back to good health. He requested that Vice Chairman Cole preside over the meeting. Commissioner Winslow presented the invocation.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Alligood moved that the Consent Agenda, including the following budget amendments, Capital Project Ordinances and resolutions, be approved.

Ayes 7

No 0

Budget Amendments

8100 DFWalker project	dec	\$60,000	transfer to 2006-07 budget
4270 Emerg.Phone Fund	inc	\$ 9,000	wireless mapping expenses
4340 Fire Fund	inc	\$ 4,000	volunteer fire pay
5110 Transportation	inc	\$15,000	county match for ITS transportation
4170 Elections	dec	\$90,000	HAVA grant for voting machines Being handled by State Elections Board
4320 Jail	inc	\$196,000	increases in meals and state inmate housing

Resolution

WHEREAS, a capital reserve fund shall be established by a resolution or ordinance of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, a capital reserve fund shall state the purpose for which the fund is created; and,

WHEREAS, a capital reserve fund shall state the approximate periods of time during which the monies are to be accumulated for each purpose; and,

WHEREAS, a capital reserve fund shall state the sources from which the monies for each purpose will be derived.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners:

That a reserve fund be established for the accumulation of funds to be used to expand the current water system to provide for greater use capacity for a larger number of customers in the future; and,

That fund is to come from a water development fee of approximately \$9,000,000, over the next twenty years; and,

That the capital reserve funds accumulated are to be exhausted before seeking external financing for the above mentioned expansion that become due before the funding period expires.

RESOLVED, and adopted, today, June 26, 2006.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chowan County contracted with Jerry Traub Architect to develop plans and specifications for the proposed expansion of the Shepard-Pruden Library; and,

WHEREAS, Jerry Traub Architects, in fact, developed plans and specifications, which have been reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Facility Services Division, by the appropriate County staff, and the Chowan County Board of Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, the USDA is in the process of its review of these plans and specifications, with recommendations to be incorporated into the plans and specifications; and,

WHEREAS, the USDA is providing permanent financing for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the plans and specifications for the renovation and expansion of the Shepard-Pruden Library as presented.

Adopted today, June 26, 2006.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

Capital Project Ordinance – Airport Industrial Park Water/Sewer Extension Project
A grant from the NC Rural Center and contributions from the Town of Edenton and the Chowan County Water Fund will finance the extension of water and sewer services to Industrial Park property for the location of new businesses – total project \$421,850.

Amended Capital Project Ordinance for Library Expansion

USDA loan proceeds provide revenue for the Library expansion in the amount of \$2,597,900.

Capital project Ordinance Wharf Landing Water/Sewer Extension Project

CDBG grant funds and a contribution from Wharf Landing LLC provide revenue for this Capital project in the amount of \$610,608.

Capital Project Ordinance for the Walker Gym Renovation Phase II

A Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant and a contribution from the General Fund provide funding for this Capital Project in the amount of \$158,035.

The special meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing declared to receive comment on the proposed 2006-07 Budget.

Public Hearing – 2006-07 Budget

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented highlights from the proposed 2006-07 Budget, including:

- \$30 million in tax base growth
- 5% increase in health insurance costs - \$47,000
- 7% increase in funding for Schools Current Expense - \$234,000
- \$94,000 increase in worker's compensation insurance
- \$45,000 increase in utilities expense
- \$16,000 increase in gasoline expense
- \$231,000 subsidy to EMS Fund
- \$117,000 subsidy to Solid Waste Fund
- \$300,000 matching grant to PARTF grant for Red Banks Farm Complex
- \$40,000 increase in maintenance funding for 1980 Courthouse
- \$86,000 for 2% cost of living for employees

The revaluation of property increased the tax base from \$855,555,774 to \$1,313,836,121, an increase of 53.57%. The proposed tax rate is \$.545/\$100 value.

No increases are projected in the Water Fund. Increases in the Fire Fund budget include an increase in the amount of fire pay, utilities and the replacement of turn-out gear. The tax rate will remain at \$.05/\$100 value.

The EMS Fund includes two additional staff members for night coverage, which is needed since Unit 1 of the Chowan Rescue Squad dissolved. Transfer revenues constitute 70% of total revenues.

The Solid Waste Fund budget has been set, in cooperation with Perquimans and Gates Counties, and will require a \$1.00 increase in the solid waste fee: from \$8 to \$9 for town residences and from \$10 to \$11 for outside of town residences.

Speaking from the audience, Gail Bains questioned the value placed on her home, saying that she didn't remodel the home and move to the Mill Village as an investment, but as a place for her and her family to live; that she is a fourth generation family resident of the

Mill Village. She is concerned because she believes she may be forced from her home because she cannot pay the taxes.

Mr. Copeland stated that the criteria for revaluation is determined by State legislation and based on sales. Real estate sales in the Town of Edenton and Chowan County, as everyone knows, has skyrocketed in recent years. And, as an example of the significant increases, a home on Blount Street has recently sold for \$200,000 more than the recent assessed value, the values in the revaluation are already out-dated.

He noted that some ideas for changes in the tax laws are being discussed in the Legislature.

No further comment was offered and the Public Hearing was closed and the special meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Downum made a motion that the Budget be adopted and the Budget Ordinance be approved as presented.

Ayes 7

No 0

Schedule Special Meeting

By motion of Commissioner Gardner, the Board scheduled a special meeting with the County Planning Board for Monday, July 24, at 3:00pm at the Northern Chowan Community Center conference room. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss coordination between the proposed zoning ordinance, the land use plan and the subdivision ordinance.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointment – COA Advisory Committee

Commissioner Winslow made a motion that Douglas A. Welin be appointed to the COA Advisory Committee to serve as one of Chowan County's members.

ayes 7

no 0

Board Appointments – ABC Board

Commissioner Gardner moved that the Board waive the term limits and reappoint Burton Jones and John Fayton to additional terms as members of the Chowan County ABC Board.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointment – Social Services Board

Commissioner Alligood's term as the Commissioner representative to the Social Services Board has expired and by motion of Commissioner Alligood, Commissioner Cole was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Ayes 7

No 0

Board Appointment – Chowan Hospital Advisory Council

Lee Miller has resigned from the Hospital Advisory Council and by motion of Commissioner Belfield, Anne Marie Knighton was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Ayes 7

No 0

Resolution – Neighborhood Access Project –

By motion of Commissioner Gardner, the Board accepted a grant from the DENR, Division of Water Resources, to assist in a project to prevent shoreline and canal erosion along property that came to the County through a FEMA buy-out. A neighborhood access area is proposed. Planning is not complete, and will be pursued in the coming weeks.

Ayes 7

No 0

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners desires to sponsor the Cape Colony Neighborhood Access project to prevent shoreline and canal erosion along a key property on the Albemarle Sound, maintain water quality, and provide water-based recreational opportunities for local residents and tourists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Board requests the State of North Carolina to provide financial assistance to Chowan County in the amount of \$ **42,420** for project construction costs;
- 2) The Board will obtain all necessary state and federal permits;
- 3) The Board will comply with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds by local governments;
- 4) The Board will supervise construction of the project to assure compliance with permit conditions and to assure safe and proper construction according to approved plans and specifications;
- 5) The Board will obtain suitable spoil disposal areas as needed and all other easements or rights-of-way that may be necessary for the construction and operation of the project without cost or obligation to the State;
- 6) The Board will assure that the project is open for use by the public on an equal basis;
- 7) The Board will hold the State harmless from any damages that may result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project;
- 8) The Board accepts responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Adopted by the Chowan County Board of Commissioners this 26th day of June, 2006.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

The meeting was adjourned.

Nancy B. Morgan, County Clerk

